



U.S. Department of Justice

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ROCKFORD RESIDENT FOUND GUILTY OF CONSPIRACY TO DISTRIBUTE "CRACK" COCAINE

ROCKFORD -- PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; RICHARD W. SANDERS, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration; RICHARD A. MEYERS, Winnebago County Sheriff; and STEVEN PUGH, Chief of the Rockford Police Department, today made the following announcement:

A federal jury in Rockford today convicted **ANDREW A. CHAVIS**, 27 (DOB: 12/09/76), formerly of 718 6th Avenue, Rockford, on charges of conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of cocaine base, also known as "crack" cocaine, and possession with intent to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine.

The conviction followed a four-day federal jury trial. Evidence presented at trial established that Chavis conspired with his co-defendants, **ALEX C. THOMPSON**, 42 (DOB: 05/01/61), formerly of 320 Sawyer Road, Rockford, and **FRANK J. JEFFERSON, JR.**, (DOB: 01/01/69), formerly of 813 ½ Fitch Road, Rockford, to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine between November 15, 2002 and November 22, 2002. Evidence also established that on November 22, 2002, Thompson ordered two ounces (approximately 56 grams) of crack cocaine from Jefferson. Testimony further established that Jefferson then arranged to meet Chavis, his drug supplier, in the parking lot of a Rockford liquor store, in order to obtain crack cocaine to provide to Thompson. Jefferson then met with Chavis in the parking lot of that liquor store, where Chavis provided him with the crack cocaine.

Thompson and Jefferson previously pleaded guilty to conspiring to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine in Rockford between November 15, 2002 and November 22, 2002.

Sentencing for Chavis will be conducted on May 28, 2004, at 9:30 a.m. Chavis faces a maximum penalty of life imprisonment, a maximum fine of \$8,000,000, and a term of supervised release following his release from prison of at least ten years and up to life. A sentencing date has not yet been set for Jefferson. Jefferson faces a maximum penalty of life imprisonment, a maximum fine of up to \$8,000,000, and a term of supervised release following his release from prison of at least ten years and up to life. The actual sentence for each defendant will be determined by the United States District Court, guided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

Thompson was sentenced on December 4, 2003, to 174 months in prison without parole, a \$400 fine, and five years of supervised release following his release from prison.

The case was investigated by the Rockford offices of the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Rockford-Winnebago County Metro Narcotics Unit. The case was prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorneys Michael F. Iasparro and Scott A. Verseman.

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